

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

SCCT-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00 CU-04 ACDA-10 /096 W

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R 031300Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL ROTTERDAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1865

INFO AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS ROTTERDAM 592

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NL

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION BEFORE CONSULATE GENERAL ON OCTOBER 2

REF: ROTTERDAM'S 585

1. DEMONSTRATION PROTESTING EXECUTIONS IN SPAIN WAS VERY CALM AND WELL CONTROLLED. CONTRARY TO INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE POLICE, NO PETITIONS WERE HANDED OVER TO EITHER THE SPANISH CONSULATE GENERAL OR THIS OFFICE.

2. ABOUT 2500 TEEN-AGE SCHOOL CHILDREN WHO HAD BEEN GIVEN DAY OFF BY BURGOMASTER OF ROTTERDAM MARCHED BY CONSULATE GENERAL, OCTOBER 2, BETWEEN 12:10 P.M. AND 12:30 P.M. CHILDREN WERE OBVIOUSLY DELIGHTED TO HAVE DAY OFF AND SOME CARRIED POSTERS CONDEMNING FRANCO REGIME. THERE WAS NO ACTION DIRECTED AGAINST THE CONSULATE GENERAL, NO EPITHETS OR STONE THROWING. DEMONSTRATION WAS LED BY POLICEMAN ON MOTORCYCLE. FIVE REPORTERS WITH CAMERAS WERE AT ENTRANCE OF CONSULATE GENERAL WAITING TO TAKE PICTURES AND INTERVIEW THREE PERSONS WHO HAD BEEN DESIGNATED TO PRESENT PETITION. HOWEVER, THEY NEVER ARRIVED SO REPORTERS DID NOTHING.

3. DEMONSTRATION BEGAN AT SCHOUWBURG SQUARE IN CENTER OF UNCLASSIFIED

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ROTTERDAM CONSISTING OF ABOUT 4000 TEENAGERS. GROUP, LED

BY BURGOMASTER VAN DER LOUW, WALKED TO SPANISH CONSULATE GENERAL WHICH WAS ONLY FEW HUNDRED YARDS AWAY WHERE THEY OBSERVED TWO MINUTES OF SILENCE AT 12:00 NOON.

4. BURGOMASTER DID NOT ACCOMPANY DEMONSTRATORS WHEN THEY WALKED BY OUR OFFICE. LEAFLET WAS CIRCULATED ADDRESSED TO ALL ROTTERDAMERS CONDEMNING THE FRANCO REGIME, CALLING FOR BOYCOTT AGAINST SPAIN, AND DEMANDING THAT SPAIN RELEASE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS. THERE WAS CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY. BOTTOM OF LEAFLET INDICATED THAT IT WAS DESIRE OF PARTICIPANTS THAT DEMONSTRATION BE ORDERLY AND CALM.

5. POLICE PROTECTION FOR THE CONSULATE GENERAL WAS EXCELLENT. THERE WERE SEVEN POLICEMEN HERE WHO ARRIVED ABOUT 11 A.M. THEY HAD WALKIE-TALKIES AND WERE PREPARED TO CALL FOR HELP FROM NEARBY POLICE STATION IF NECESSARY.

6. DEMONSTRATION CLEARLY LACKED ENTHUSIASM THAT CITY'S SOCIALIST LEADERSHIP TRIED TO INSTILL. ALTHOUGHAMSTERDAM'S TELEGRAAF HAD A FRONT-PAGE PICTURE OF BURGOMASTER VAN DER LOUW LEADING DEMONSTRATION, IT CORRECTLY STATED THAT IT WAS NOT VERY SUCCESSFUL.
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